

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Age of Retirement.

W e live rapidly in the telephonic age. It has been truthfully said that we can crowd much more work into the day than our most industrious forbears did. Invention has given us many haunts. Time and space have been conquered, so that the modern man of 60 has accomplished infinitely more than the man who lived to the patriarchal age, and, from this point of view, has earned the rest which his grandfather would not have dreamed of enjoying at threescore. Whether this be so or not, many of the finest achievements in business, statesmanship, literature, in all activities, have been wrought by men long past 60. No strong man will accept 60 as the arbitrary limit of his ambition and working ability.

Writers who have discoursed most knowingly on the obligation of the aged to leave the active scene have not undertaken to fix the year for retirement. The youth who is anxious to push his way into the working world thinks that a man is old at 40 and should be preparing to go on the retired list. In the fierce competitions of modern life it is probable that the age of retirement is gradually falling. The theory is worth the investigation of the curious statistician. Asked when he considered a man to be in the prime of life, Palmerston replied: "Seventy-nine, but as I have entered my eighty-third year, perhaps I am myself a little past it." Such is the view of old men on this delicate subject.

Many men retire too early, and, like the old war horse, yearn for the march and the battle. The habit of work holds us to the accustomed cares and tasks. This explains why the great lawyer or the multi-millionaire merchant remains at his post long after his prime. The powers of men whose lives have been very active are likely to decline rapidly in retirement, the result of idleness and ennui.

"Nothing is so injurious as unoccupied time. The human heart is like a millstone; if you put wheat under it, it grinds the wheat into flour; if you put no wheat it grinds on, but then 'tis itself it wears away."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Mistakes in Life.

ONE of the most unprofitable ways of spending time is the practice, to which many persons are addicted, of brooding over the mistakes one has made in life, and thinking what he might have been or achieved if he had not done, at certain times, just what he did do. Almost every unsuccessful man, in looking over his past career, is inclined to think that it would have been wholly different but for certain slips and blunders—certain hasty, ill-considered acts into which he was betrayed almost unconsciously and without a suspicion of their consequences.

As he thinks of all the good things of this world—honor, position, power and influence—of which he has been deprived in some mysterious, inexplicable way, he has no patience with himself; and, as it is painful and humiliating to dwell long upon one's own follies, it is fortunate if he does not implicate others—friends and relatives—in his disappointments. Perhaps, as education has never been free from mistakes—mistakes, indeed, of every kind—he imputes the blame to his early training, in which habits of thoroughness and accuracy, or, again, of self-reliance and independence of thought, may not have been implanted. Perhaps a calling was chosen for him by his parents, without regard to his peculiar talents or tastes and preferences; or, if he was allowed to choose for himself, it was when his judgment was immature and unfit for the responsibility. The result was that the square man got into the round hole, or the triangular man into the square hole, or the round man squeezed himself into the triangular hole.

Now, the fact is that, in all these mishaps, there is nothing exceptional. They are just what befall—all, or in part—every man who is born in a civilized country. No circumstances under which any man has been born and fitted for a career have been entirely happy. . . . In view of these considerations, it has been justly said that to see a man, poker in hand, on a wet day, dashing at the coals, and moodily counting the world's mistakes against him, is neither a dignified nor engaging spectacle; and our sympathy flags with the growing conviction that people are

constantly apt to attribute a state of things to one particular condition or mischance, which, sooner or later, must have happened from some inherent weakness and openness to attack. It may be noted that, where men themselves attribute ill success or mischance to separate distinct mistakes—as, for instance, to the choice of a certain adviser or the engaging in some special speculation—those who have to observe them trace all to character. They see that if failure had not come at such a juncture, it must have come at some other from certain flaws in the man's nature—that mistakes simply mark occasions when he was tested. We see in a career a hundred chances thrown away and wasted, not all from accident, though the actor looking back, does not know why he chose the wrong—his being the last to remember that a crisis is the occasion for hidden faults and predominating influences to declare themselves, so that his mistakes were, in a manner, inevitable.—William Mathews, In Success.

On the Use of the Imagination.

IN a practical age the imagination is apt to get less than its due. We want naked facts, or we think we do, and imaginative people insist upon clothing them in gay apparel; consequently whenever we lose sight of a fact we suspect the imagination of having run off with it, and raise the hue and cry with a fine indignation against the deceiver. Yet to the art of living, as to every subordinate art, imagination is the one indispensable quality. For lack of it we fall not merely in sympathy and courtesy, in toleration, in all the minor graces, but even in actual truthfulness of thought and demeanor. So far is it from reality to consider imagination as the enemy of fact, that without it no fact can be properly apprehended, much less shared with our neighbors. The greatest fact of social life is the fact that we are all different, and it follows from this that without the power to picture a different mind from our own we are incapable of communicating the simplest feeling. . . . If you define imagination as the faculty of seeing what is not there, you may take away its character without contradiction; but this is the perverse description of statisticians; the poet that lives in each of us knows better. . . . And if we come down to the amenities, the small change of life, the imagination calls to us ceaselessly for employment. Formal courtesies are base money, passed about among stupid people only until they are found out; the courtesies that will stand every test, and pass current in all emergencies, must be the fruits of a genuine traffic between mind and mind, in which every interest is active and every want is taken into account. And this can only be got by sending the imagination on its travels for us.—London Guardian.

The Chief Language.

WITH the increasing intercourse of the nations the old question of a universal language comes up—at least in the German mind—affording a topic of discussion. The tendency toward a common tongue is and has been for years most strongly marked by the spread of the English language. Mulhall's statistics of a dozen years old (being the latest available) show the spread of languages for the first ninety years of the last century. At the beginning of the century the languages of Europe were spoken by 161,000,000 people. In 1890 they were spoken by 401,000,000, an increase of nearly 150 per cent. The four principal languages in 1801 were French, Russian, German and Spanish. The French amounted to 19.4 per cent and the Spanish to 16.2. English-speaking peoples amounted to only 12.7. But in 1850 the standing was:

English, 27.7 per cent;	Russian and German, each 18.7 per cent;	French, 12.7 per cent;	Spanish, 10.7 per cent;
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and the remainder divided between Italian and Portuguese. The number of English-speaking people had grown from 20,520,000 to 111,100,000, German and Russian-speaking people from about 30,000,000 to 75,000,000 each, and French-speaking people from 31,450,000 to 51,200,000. The English language had risen from fifth to first place, and was spoken by at least 50 per cent more people than any other European tongue. Of the increase of about 91,000,000 English-speaking people, about 70,000,000 were in the United States.—Indianapolis News.

by numbers of friendly blacks pulling on long tow lines, he conquered the obstacles without an accident. All the way up he sounded, charted and photographed the dangerous places, and made a report which would enable an army to follow where he had gone. At Arenberg he divided his stores, and having assigned his white aids their tasks, went on against the rising flood to Niame, put the seventy tons ashore, and then, with his chart to guide him, shot the rapids down stream to his base. At the falls of Patassi, where his colored guide, Lamine, took the boats through in turn, they were carried seventy-three hundred feet in three minutes and twenty seconds, and accomplished in a few hours what had taken a month in ascending. On the second trip Captain Lenfant was seriously ill; but although there was a hospital only a few hours down stream, and the nearest up-stream doctor was sixty days ahead, he fought off the fever and accomplished his mission.

On his route and in a canoe trip on the upper river he collected a mass of valuable information, charting the floods and examining soils and crops. He visited cities that were populous three centuries ago, and are just recovering from the prostration which followed when the slave trade swept away their people. He found them—Saw, GaoGao, and many others—eager for commerce with the outside world.

ANCIENT ENGLISH INNS.

Some Have Been in Existence for Nearly a Thousand Years. Somehow one always bears with regret that one of England's famous old moss-grown, ivy-clad inns is about to be demolished. The Old King of Prussia hostelry is the latest to pass into the housebreaker's hands. This old inn is in Finchley, and from 1757, when the place was built, until the present day the license has been in the keeping of one family—perhaps a record in the licensing annals of England. The Old King of Prussia is a picturesque half-timbered house, and many a noted highwayman has par-taken of its hospitality. The grand father of the present proprietor was quite a noted character, having van- quished several notorious highwaymen on Finchley Common. It is on record that he once had an encounter with Dick Turpin.

Round and about London and its ever extending suburbs there may still be seen inns and taverns of great age and interesting associations. The Angel Inn, Highgate hill, dates back to the time of the Reformation. Originally it was called the Salutation Inn. It is built entirely of wood. Another famous inn is the Bald-faced Stag, at Edgeware. Nobody knows when it was originally built, and it would seem as though each successive proprietor has endeavored to place his mark on its architectural aspect, for many parts of it have evidently at different times been rebuilt. In the stables, it is alleged, Dick Turpin had his horse's shoes turned, so as to make his pursuers imagine he had gone in an opposite direction. Among the very oldest of suburban London inns are the Plough, at Kingsbury Green, and the King James and Tinker Inn, at Enfield. The first is said to be 850 years old, and the latter was reputed to have been first built as an inn and under another name 992 years ago. Its present name is derived from an encounter which King James I. is said to have had with a tinker at the door of the inn. The tinker's conversation so pleased the king that he made the mender of kettles "a knight, with five hundred a year," the records of Enfield inform us.—London Daily Mail.

Made No Diff. "I suppose Lizzie Oletimer is glad it is leap year," said the soft-spoken Heloise. "I don't suppose it makes much difference to her," replied the mellow-toned Irene. "She has been jumping at every chance she saw for fifteen years."—Judge.

THE HOUSEHOLD

Entire Wheat Bread.

Scald a half pint of milk, add water, salt and yeast. Then add slowly, beating all the while, five half-pint cupfuls of whole wheat flour, knead ten minutes, using another cupful of flour. Put this dough in a bowl, cover and stand in a warm place, 80 d. degrees Fahrenheit, for two hours or until very light. Then mold carefully into two loaves, cover again for one hour and bake in a moderately quick oven for forty-five minutes.

Almond Custard.

One quart of milk, two cupfuls of sugar, one-half pound of almonds, blanched and pounded fine, four eggs, and four teaspoonfuls of rose water. Stir over the fire until as thick as cream, then set in the oven until firm. Just before serving cover with whipped cream, tinted delicately pink with strawberry syrup or red currant jelly.

Dinner Bonbons.

Delicious dinner bonbons are made by chopping peanuts or almonds very fine, mixing them with the white of an egg, a little sugar and just enough sherry to flavor, and pressing the paste into the cavity made by removing the stones from fresh prunes or dates. The fruit is then rolled in powdered sugar.

Bacon Soup.

Cut two slices of bacon into small dice. Put them in a kettle and fry brown with an onion, sliced, and two tablespoonfuls of flour. Add a quart of boiling water, two cold boiled potatoes, a cup of stewed tomatoes and a little celery. Season to taste. This is a quick and economical soup and very nice for a change.

Raspberry Trifle.

Line the bottom of a deep dish with thin slices of sponge cake and squeeze over this a little raspberry juice. Cover the cake with a thick layer of sweetened red or black raspberries. Put a layer of cake on top of this and more berries, and when the dish is three-quarters full pour over all a thin boiled custard.

Chocolate Bread Pudding.

Chocolate Bread Pudding.—Soak two cupfuls of bread crumbs in two cupfuls of scalded milk, add two-thirds cupful of sugar, two squares of chocolate previously melted, and one teaspoonful of vanilla. Mix well and bake in a buttered dish one hour.

Mince-meat.

Mince-meat.—One cup chopped meat, three cups chopped apples, one cup sugar, one and one-half cup raisins, one and one-half cup currants, one-third cup molasses, one cup liquid in which meat was boiled, two teaspoons each salt, cinnamon, cloves and allspice, one-half cup vinegar.

Fruit Jumbles.

One pound of sugar, one pound of butter, one pound and a quarter of flour, six eggs, half a pound of currants, a little soda and nutmeg. Mix the butter, sugar, spices and eggs, then the currants, next the soda, and lastly the flour.

Cocoanut Biscuit.

Grate two ounces of cocoanut, mix with a quarter of a pound of powdered white sugar, and the whites of three eggs, previously beaten to a stiff froth. Drop small pieces of this mixture on paper, place in a baking tin in a slow oven for about ten minutes.

Lemon Pie.

Lemon Pie.—One lemon, using rind and juice, one cup sugar, one cup water, one tablespoon flour, three eggs. Bake in rich crust and cover with meringue.

Hints for the Housewife.

Before chopping mint for sauce, sprinkle it with sugar. It will then be chopped fine easily and quickly.

A woolen cloth is far better than a brush for polishing a grate, for it does the work more cleanly and produces a softer gloss.

After ironing shirts, etc., place them by the fire till perfectly dry, for this quick dry insures their being as stiff as possible.

It is a good plan to partially fill valuable china vases with sand or to place shot in them, for thus they are rendered too heavy to be easily upset.

Remember that stored blankets and other woolen articles may be kept from months if some well-dried yellow soap be cut up and scattered in their folds.

To serve stewed figs with whipped cream, put each fig on a small square of sponge cake neatly cut and pile whipped cream on the top.

Drain oysters on a napkin before making a stew. Rub the saucepan with butter, heat very hot, put in the oysters, and turn and stir until well plumped and ruffled before making the stew proper.

Telegraph wire of galvanized iron is much better to hang clothes on in winter than rope, as the clothes will not freeze to it. Have it hung by a lineman and it will never "give," no matter what the weather may be.

To clean painted walls dissolve two ounces of borax in two quarts of water and add one tablespoonful of ammonia. Use half this quantity to each bucket of water; do not use soap. Wash a small portion of the paint at a time and rub dry with clean cloth.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN

Child Training.

Should humility be taught in the public schools? Are the children of the present day too proud to perform the tasks that their fathers and mothers performed when they were children? These are pertinent questions. They are becoming more so every day, and it will not be amiss to consider them. Educators are beginning to discuss the matter with great seriousness.

Recently a prominent Eastern school man in a public address said: "Our fathers did chores, our sons refuse to, but put the energy into football. Our girls decline to do housework. We have not the virtue of frugality. We should teach it."

Undoubtedly these statements are to a certain degree correct. It is to be doubted, however, if the school is the place to correct these faults. At best nothing can be done in the schools more than to supplement the work of the home. Children cannot be taught frugality and industry at school unless these things are also impressed upon them in the home. Wasteful and indulgent parents are to blame. If parents with two or three children cannot train them properly, how is a teacher with twenty-five or fifty children under her control to be expected to correct their faults and at the same time instruct them in their studies?

The whole trouble lies in the indulgence of parents. Every one has observed the difference between children in different homes, but enjoying practically the same material advantages.

Families of the same wealth and the same station in society show a marked difference in the way they train their children. In one family the children will be respectful, industrious and well behaved. In another way they will be the opposite.

One trouble is that parents want their children to have things better than they had them, when they were young. Their children must have more advantages, better clothes, less work to do and more pleasures. These ambitions on the part of the parents are certainly unselfish. The result, however, often is that the children are selfish.

Parents should cultivate humility on the part of their children. It should be humility without fear, however. Work should be provided and the tasks should be performed. Teachers should not be expected to do everything. Let the children be properly trained at home.—The Home Magazine.

Why Don't You?

Why don't you answer your friend's letter at once? It will have double value if written promptly and will take no more time now than by and by.

Why don't you make the promised visit to that invalid? She is looking for you day after day, and "hope deferred makes the heart sick."

Why don't you send away that little gift you've been planning to send? Mere kind intentions never accomplish any good.

Why don't you speak out the encouraging words that you have in your thoughts? Unless you express them they are of no use to others.

Why don't you try to share the burden of that sorrowful one who works beside you? Is it because you are growing selfish?

Why don't you take more pains to be self-sacrificing and loving in the everyday home life? Time is rapidly passing. Your dear ones will not be with you always.

Why don't you create around you an atmosphere of happiness and helpfulness, so that all who come in touch with you may be made better? Is not this possible?

Why don't you follow in the steps of Him who "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister?"

Why don't you?—Classmate.

How to Avoid Wrinkles.

Our grandmothers used to date the period of their lost girlhood by the first wrinkle, but the woman has to be seen nowadays who would have the courage to say that with her first wrinkle comes old age. She would tell you she is proud of that little faint line.

But, as a rule, ill health is answerable for those disagreeable little lines, and, indeed, when they are many in number, they are disfiguring.

Many are the methods that have been tried to make the skin smooth and fair again.

A number of these methods are good, but, as no two skins are alike, each requires a different treatment.

There is a good deal in the way you wash your face. Instead of washing it downwards, as ninety-nine out of every hundred do, it should be washed upwards, and gentle friction given to the parts most likely to wrinkle.

Spraying the face with soft hot water at night is good.

The best plan of all is to nourish the body with good, wholesome food, which will, in its turn, nourish the skin and fill out the face in the parts where wrinkles generally come. Face powder only deepens the wrinkles.

Staining Floors.

Hard floors require oiling and rubbing twice a month to make them presentable, and every year or two they will wear off, so that a new coat of

stain and varnish will be required on the worn places.

The reddish, yellow or brown tones of the stained floor can readily be matched with home-made stain composed mainly of turpentine, into which is mixed a portion of burnt amber, yellow ochre or burnt sienna, according to the tone of the old stain.

Combined stain and varnish is not desirable on old floors, and is not particularly pleasing on new ones. It is always best to apply the stain first, in a thin coat, with a flat brush, and after allowing it to dry a day, go over the entire floor with a coat of hard-oil finish, or better yet, a coat of spar composition. When mixing the stains, they should not be too thick with the coloring-pigment, nor laid on too thick with the brush.

Where floors are worn in the middle, leaving the edges nearly as good as new, the color of the stain must be carefully matched, so that a patchy appearance may not be the result.

At a hardware or paint store the ray amber, burnt umber, burnt sienna or yellow ochre ground in oil can be had in small cans, or the dry powders may be used. Clear turpentine will be all that is required to thin the ground color or act as a medium for the dry colors, which will appear much darker when mixed with the turpentine. If the turpentine should be very thin, however, a small portion of Japan drier may be added to lend more of a body.—Woman's Home Companion.

Marry for Love.

In many of the letters that come to me the cry is, "I think I am in love, but am not sure. Would you advise me to marry?"

My answer invariably is, "No." Married life where love and friendship reign supreme is undoubtedly the best state for both men and women. But even at the best married life does not always run smoothly. It is inevitable that there should be many little hitches when two people who have grown up in a totally different environment are suddenly brought together for weal or woe.

Now, it takes the deepest and most abiding love to smooth out these rough spots, and when there is not that love, things do indeed get in a muddle.

So many young people think they are in love, when in reality they are not in love at all. That is, they are not in love with the real person, they are in love with a pretty face, a fascinating manner or something equally unstable.

What I want these young people to do is to look into it seriously and find out just what they are in love with.

Let them go carefully into the loved one's virtues and faults—lovers can be analytical if they try—and if weighing all the pros and cons, they can then say to themselves, "I cannot live without this man or woman, life would be a barren waste." Then I say, "marry, and marry as quickly as possible so as not to lose one precious moment of the greatest sweetness that life can offer."

But, oh, lovers all, be very sure of yourselves before you enter on this compact to "love each other" as long as you both shall live.—Beatrice Fairfax in Spokesman's Review.

Health and Beauty Hints.

Direct sunshine gives gloss to hair of any shade; but fair hair it renders like burnished gold.

Unrefreshing but sound sleep nearly always shows that the blood does not leave the brain by the veins at the normal rate. Soaking the feet in hot water, and using a high pillow will be beneficial. In many cases a daily saline draft or similar medicine will prove useful.

When hot fomentations are required the newspaper comes into play. Place the papers on a stove, lay flannel cloths wrung out of water as hot as can be borne on them, and when well heated through and through lift up and wring out in dry towels to save the hands from being burned.

A slice of lemon used as a soap at the toilet works wonders on the skin. The acid searches out the hidden grime that may be contained in the pores and cleanses these tiny pipes as soap could never do. No polisher for the nails can excel in efficiency this same lemon juice, which takes out all stains from the corners of the nails, polishes up their horny texture; makes them shine and softens the thin skin at the roots so that the half-moons at the end show up well.

Greasiness of the skin is an unpleasant condition, and is by no means easy to cure. All rich and greasy foods should be avoided. The face should be washed in rain water, or, if this be unattainable, in water softened by the addition of borax. The soap used should be of the purest, and contain no glycerine. Wash the face occasionally with white vinegar diluted with rose water.

What He Promised.

Mr. Spratt—I suppose you do not remember that you promised to obey me when we were married?

Mrs. Spratt—Don't you know, John, that a woman who could marry you would be equal to any kind of foolishness.—Boston Transcript.

Milan, Italy, not Lyons, France, is now the greatest silk market.

EXPLORING THE NIGER.

In connection with certain French military maneuvers in the Sudan the question was raised not long ago of the practicability of revictualing an army in the region south of the Sahara by means of the Niger. Theorists disagreed. Lieutenant Hours, who had come down the river, said it could not be done. Captain Toteue, who had gone up, said it could. There was but one way to settle the dispute. Captain Lenfant was ordered to take ten thousand boxes of provisions and two thousand of equipment to the mouth of the Niger, load the material into bateaux, deliver seventy tons of supplies on the bank at Niame, whence it would be borne overland to Colonel Perot at Lake Tchad, and with the remainder to revictual all posts along the river from Say to Asongo, the latter about two thousand miles up and above the last important rapid.

For this tremendous task Captain Lenfant was assigned two lieutenants and about forty negroes, but was able to hire natives at necessary points en route. He was required to fortify a base of operations at Arenberg.

What the intrepid soldier undertook when, with twenty bateaux, he began the ascent of the river, can best be understood when one realizes that the Niger for a thousand miles falls over rapid after rapid. Its waters are torn to seas of foam by innumerable rocks, and the channel is often lost among dividing islands. Many of these rapids are in deep gorges, and in some of them the river falls one hundred times as rapidly as the Mississippi in its usual flow.

Starting up stream at low water, when the rapids are at their worst, Captain Lenfant urged his boats forward with oars and sails and setting poles. Guided by negroes who proved themselves trustworthy, competent, and at times even heroic, and aided